



**MINUTES**  
**Environmental Sustainability Commission**  
**Regular Meeting of March 6, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Commissioners Rasheed, O'Donnell, Rennels, Obata, and Chair Godfrey. Commissioner Moore arrived at 4:30 p.m.

**Oral Communications:** The commission & City staff welcomed the 25+ students from Mission San Jose High School's Environmental A.P. and Government A.P. classes who were receiving course credit for their attendance.

Reverend Jeff Spencer from the Niles Discovery Church in Fremont stated that the City should divest any financial interests it might have in fossil fuels. Reverend Spencer noted that he had made a similar statement recently at oral communications at a City Council meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 12/5/13 were approved unanimously.

**Presentation from ACWD:** Water Conservation Supervisor Stephanie Nevins from the Alameda County Water District presented on drought and water conservation in the Tri-City area. ACWD, founded in 1914, serves a population of over 331,000 between the cities of Fremont, Union City, and Newark. Its water sources consist of 40% from Alameda Creek Watershed Runoff and Niles Cone Groundwater Basin, 40% from the State Water Project (Lake Oroville Reservoir), and 20% from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (Hetch Hetchy). Due to drought, Governor Brown announced that there would be 0% of allocations from the SWP made this year to local water agencies, and the SFPUC has requested ACWD reduce its use of Hetch Hetchy water by 10%. Furthermore, local runoff from the Alameda Creek Watershed is 10-20% of normal.

As a response ACWD issued a request for a 20% voluntary reduction on January 17, and there will be a Public Hearing on March 13 for a Water Shortage Emergency Declaration. Should the ACWD Board pass the declaration, certain water uses will be prohibited (draining & refilling pools, using non-recycled fountains, using hoses without shut-off nozzles, and hosing down driveways/walkways), and other uses will be restricted (landscape watering limited to once a week until May 31 and after September 30, twice a week June 1 – Sept 30). The Draft Ordinance can be found at <http://www.acwd.org/DocumentCenter/View/631>.

Stephanie Nevins then discussed a number of water conservation programs offered to local residents by ACWD, including: High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program, Water Saver Kits, High Water Use Notification, Leak Detection, California Youth Energy Services Partnership (CYES), Turf Replacement Incentives, Water-wise Gardening Online tool,

Landscape Workshops, The Aqueduct and ACWD website – seasonal irrigation notices, and the new Water Savings Assistance Program for low-income households. ACWD also offers High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebates, Commercial High Efficiency Toilet / Urinal Rebates, Water Use Efficiency Surveys, and Free Low Flow Devices to businesses. Furthermore, ACWD will be promoting water conservation in the community throughout the spring and summer months through local workshops and through collaboration with local home improvement and landscape supply operations.

**Fremont GHG Inventory Update:** City of Fremont Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco presented on the 2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, which served as an update to the City’s initial 2005 greenhouse gas inventory (the baseline for the Climate Action Plan). This report provided an update to the original 2005 baseline inventory according to new methodology as established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), and then compared that to the inventory for the year 2010 as a means of tracking progress. For 2010, activities in the City of Fremont resulted in 1,516,500 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e, which compared to the updated 2005 baseline of 1,698,000, or an 11% reduction. The 2010 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update report can be viewed online at <http://www.fremont.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21702>.

In discussing report findings, staff pointed out that during the period between 2005 and 2010, a number of factors at the local, regional and national levels could have an influence the emissions inventory, including: an increase in population; an economic recession resulting in a decrease in jobs, a decrease in vehicle miles traveled, a decrease in energy and water consumed, and a decrease in waste produced; an increase in the fuel economy of vehicles; and a decrease in the PG&E emissions factor for electricity due to the increase in non-emitting fuel sources (mandated by the State). Aside from these more external factors, other activities have helped to reduce emissions, including: an increase in the efficiency of water distribution and treatment; the installation of energy efficient lighting, HVAC, and refrigeration technologies (especially at the non-residential level); a decrease in the amount of waste going to landfills due to increase organic diversion; and a decrease in the number of Fremont residents commuting for work. Therefore, the City of Fremont saw an overall 7% decrease in emissions from transportation, a 1% decrease in emissions from residential energy use, a 22% decrease in emissions from commercial & industrial energy use, a 7% decrease in emissions from water distribution and treatment, and a 25% reduction in emissions from waste.

Commissioners were generally pleased to see the level of emissions reductions during this time period, which was a slightly greater reduction than required to be on track toward the 25% reduction goal by 2020. Specific questions included ways in which emissions can be reduced in the transportation and residential energy sectors. Staff recommended to the that the City continue to implement measures outlined in the Climate Action Plan while also continuing to monitor emissions and progress towards the 2020 goal, and noted that some of the successes seen between 2005 to 2010 could be due to the implementation of “low-hanging fruit” measures, with future reductions requiring more effort and with less dramatic results. Specific areas of focus for future implementation include education, outreach, and incentive programs for residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; a City-wide policy focus on transit-oriented development and sustainable urban design to decrease single-occupancy vehicle

trips and increase alternative methods of transit; and a continued community-wide focus on waste reduction, recycling, and water conservation practices.

**Project Updates:** Rachel DiFranco announced two upcoming events: “Fremont Zero Waste Workshop” on Tuesday April 1 at 6:30 pm at the City of Fremont Development Services Center, Niles Conference Room, and the “Let’s Go Green Together” Fremont Earth Day festival on Saturday, April 26 from 11am – 3pm at Washington Hospital Healthcare Center, Conrad E. Anderson Auditorium. She also announced plans for a Fremont Energy Challenge supported by Stopwaste that will take place during the spring/summer to encourage residents to sign up for the Home Energy Analyzer tool, and the City’s plans to submit an application over the coming months for participation in the Georgetown University Energy Prize, which will take place 2015-2016.

Fremont Deputy Director of Community Development Dan Schoenholz summarized some of the other projects staff is working on, including the investment grade audit of City facilities being conducted by Chevron Energy Solutions to assess opportunities for upgrades in street lighting, water pumps, HVAC systems, and solar PV installations. He also mentioned the current pilot program to issue solar PV permits over the counter for residential systems under 10kW, the car share pilot program RFP, and projects to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

**Commissioner Announcements:** Commissioner Rennels specifically addressed the high school students in the room, calling on them to not only have more sustainable habits themselves, but moreover to encourage their parents and the community at large to pay increasing attention to these issues. Commissioners Moore and Rasheed and Chair Godfrey all echoed the sentiment.

Commissioner Rasheed announced his plans for a Green Week at Mission San Jose High School March 17-21.

Commissioner Rennels recommended the next meeting be held at a local high school, and Commissioner Rasheed suggested Mission San Jose as the venue.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco  
Sustainability Coordinator